Fourth meeting of the Himalayan Mountaineering and Tourism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) The Indian Mountaineering Foundation have indicated that no such demand was made.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Smuggling of gold through diplomatic channel

1355. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gold smuggling cases through diplomatic channel detected during the last one year till date and the value thereof in each case;

(b) what are the names of the foreign missions and the status of the diplomats involved; and

(c) what action Government have taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) During the last one year (from September, 1985 to September, 1986), two diplomats of two different countries were found involved in the smuggling of gold worth Rs. 130.86 lakhs, in two cases. In public interest, it will not be expedient to disclose the names of the country to which they belong.

(c) The Government has conveyed its serious concern to the countries concerned and these diplomats have already left the country.

Losses incurred by the Regional Rural Banks

1356. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Regional Rural Banks in the country have been incurring losses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the Banks have wiped out the entire share capital and reserves;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the names of such banks which have wiped out their entire share capital and reserves; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a), (b) and (d) During the year 1985 out of 188 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) 152 were in loss. As at the end of December, 1985, ninety one regional rural banks listed in the enclosed statement (*See* below), are reported to have eroded their issued share capital and reserves due to continued losses.

(c) The main reasons for such losses are (i) rapid branch expansion by these banks; (ii) low business potential due to locational disadvantages of the centres served by these banks and limited clientele consisting of persons with an annual income upto Rs. 6500/- only; (iii) increase in establishment costs due to upward revision in pay and allowances etc.

(e) Pursuant to the recommendations made by the Working Group on RRBs a number of steps are proposed to be taken for improving the viability of RRBs. These include (i) release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record; (ii) enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to public

bodies/village panchayats etc., (iii) lowering of interest rate on refinance provided to them by the sponsoring banks; and (iv) investment of their SLR refinance directly in Government securities with a view to obtaining better return.

Statement

Names of Regional Rural Banks which have eroded their capital and reserves (As on 31-12-85)

Name of the State/RRB
ANDHRA PRADESH
1. Nagarjuna Gr Bk
2. Rayalaseema Gr Bk
3. Sree Anantha Gr Bk
4. Shri Venkateshwara Gr Bk
5. Panakini Gr Bk
ASSAM
6. Lakhimi Gaonlia Bk
7. Langpi Dehangi Rural Bk
BIHAR
8. Champaran Ksh Gr Bk
9. Magadh Gr Bk
10. Kosi Ksh Gr Bk
11. Vaishali Ksh Gr Bk
12. Santhal Parganas Gr Bk
13. Nalanda Gr Bk
14. Singhbhum Ksh Gr Bk
15. Mithila Ksh Gr Bk
16. Samastipur Ksh Gr Bk
17. Ranchi Ksh Gr Bk
18. Gopalganj Ksh Gr Bk
19. Saran Ksh Gr Bk
GUJARAT
20. Jamnagar Gr Bk
21. Kutch Gr Bk
22. Banaskantha-Mehsana Gr Bk
23. Panchmahal Gr Bk
HARYANA
24. Haryana Ksh Gr Bk
25. Gurgaon Gramin Bk
HIMACHAL PRADESH
26. Himachal Gr Bk
JAMMU & KASHMIR
27. Jammu Rural Bk
28. Elaquai Dehati Bk
KARNATAKA
29. Cauvery Gr Bk
30. Krishna Gr Bk
31. Chitradurga Gr Bk
32. Kalpatharu Gr Bk
33. Kolar Gr Bk
34. Bijapur Gr Bk
MADHYA PRADESH
35. Kshetriya Gr Bk, Hoshangabad
36. Bilaspur-Raipur Ksh Gr Bk
37. Rewa-Sidhi Gr Bk
38. Bundelkhand Ksh Gr Bk
39. Sharda Gr Bk
40. Surguja Ksh Gr Bk
41. Bastar Ksh Gr Bk
42. Durg-Rajnandgaon Gr Bk
43. Jhabua-Dhar Ksh Gr Bk
44. Raigarh Ksh Gr Bk
45. Shivpuri-Guna Ksh Gr Bk
46. Damoh-Panna-Sagar Ksh Gr Bk
47. Dewas-Shajapur Ksh Gr Bk
48. Nimar Ksh Gr Bk
MAHARASHTRA
49. Marathwada Gr Bk

Name of the State/RRB

50. Aurangabad-Jalna Gr Bk
51. Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gr Bk

MEGHALAYA

52. Ka Bank Nongkyndon Ri Khasi Jaintia Gr Bk

ORISSA

53. Puri Gr Bk
54. Bolangir Anch Gr Bk
55. Kalahandi Anch Gr Bk
56. Baitarani Gr Bk
57. Balasore Gr Bk
58. Rushikulya Gr Bk
59. Dhenkanal Gr Bk

RAJASTHAN

60. Marwar Gr Bk
61. Shekhawati Gr Bk
62. Marudhar Ksh Gr Bk
63. Alwar-Bharatpur Anch Gr Bk
64. Aravali Ksh Gr Bk
65. Hadoti Ksh Gr Bk
66. Thar Anch. Gr Bk

UTTAR PRADESH

67. Hardoi Unnao Gr Bk
68. Kanpur Ksh Gr Bk
69. Sravasthi Gr Bk
70. Etawah Ksh Gr Bk
71. Kshetriya Kisan Gr Bk
72. Kashi Gr Bk
73. Allahabad Ksh Gr Bk
74. Pratapgarh Ksh Gr Bk
75. Faizabad Ksh Gr Bk
76. Fatehpur Ksh Gr Bk
77. Bareilly Ksh Gr Bk
78. Devipatan Ksh Gr Bk
79. Aligarh Ksh Gr Bk

Name of the State/RRB

80. Tulsi Gr Bk
81. Etah Gr Bk
82. Gomti Gr Bk
83. Chhatrasal Gr Bk
84. Rani-Lakshmi Bai Ksh Gr Bk

WEST BENGAL

85. Mallabhum Gr Bk
86. Mayurakshi Gr Bk
87. Uttarbanga Ksh Gr Bk
88. Nadia Gr Bk
89. Sagar Gr Bk
90. Bardhaman Gr Bk

MIZORAM

91. Mizoram Rural Bank

NOTE:

Gr=Gramin

Bk=Bank

Ksh=Kshetriya

Anch=Anchalik

Violation of FERA by a Union Minister

1357. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the 'Illustrated Weekly' of 10th-16th August, 1986 issue regarding violation of FERA by a Minister in the Union Cabinet;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?